

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 COME-00 AGR-20 EUR-25 SPC-03

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 H-03 DRC-01 /195 W

----- 121163

R 161928Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5697

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1298

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, XL, TD, US

SUBJ: CARICOM DELEGATION TO SEEK U.S. RECONSIDERATION OF SUGAR
QUOTA REDUCTION

REF: POS 1252

1. MORNING PRESS OCTOBER 16 ANNOUNCED THAT A TEAM REPRESENTING
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) NATIONS WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON
ON OCTOBER 17 TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND
AGRICULTURE TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE USG TO RECONSIDER MANDATORY
REDUCTION IN WEST INDIES SUGAR QUOTA. ONLY MEMBERS OF MISSION
NAMED IN PRESS ACCOUNT ARE GEORGE BUCKMIRE, REPRESENTING CARICOM,
AND FRANK NOEL FROM GUYANA GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: GOTT HAS NOT INFORMED EMBASSY OF TEAM'S PUTATIVE VISIT
TO U.S, AND HAS NOT RAISED SUBJECT OF SUGAR QUOTA REDUCTIONS SINCE
MY DISCUSSIONS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ON OCTOBER 5 (REFTEL). IN
AGATTACHE'S CONTACTS WITH LOCAL SUGAR INDUSTRY, SUGAR MANUFACTURERS'
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ASSOCIATION KEEPS INSISTING THAT TRINIDAD WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT

SUGAR CROP NEXT YEAR TO MEET ITS PROPORTION OF FORMER U.S. QUOTA. OFFICIALS OF GOVT.-OWNED CARONI (LARGEST PRODUCER) ADMIT, HOWEVER, THAT NEXT YEAR'S OUTLOOK NOT TOO GOOD AND THEY FORESEE LIKELIHOOD THAT WEST INDIES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FULFILL U.S. QUOTA AT ORIGINAL LEVEL.

3. GOTT'S RATIONAL, LOW-KEY REACTION TO NEWS OF QUOTA REDUCTION PROBABLY REFLECTS PM WILLIAMS' OWN ASSESSMENT OF REALITIES OF SUGAR SITUATION IN WEST INDIES. WILLIAMS WAS QUOTED BY A PRESS INTERVIEWER ON AUGUST 26, 1973, AS FOLLOWS: "ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO I SUGGESTED TO MY COLLEAGUES, FORBES BURNHAM AND MICHAEL MANLEY, THAT, IN MY VIEW, OUR STRATEGY IN RESPECT OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY NEGOTIATIONS IS ALL WRONG; WE ARE STILL NEGOTIATING IN TERMS OF SUGAR-A DEAD HORSE IF EVER THERE WAS ONE, THE CROP OF COLONIALISM PAR EXCELLENCE-INSTEAD OF OIL (AND NATURAL GAS) AND BAUXITE, WHICH CAN CARRY THE SUGAR AND BANANAS ALONG." MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: SUGAR, IMPORT QUOTAS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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